

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03515 171853Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /072 W
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P 142038Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8053
INFO HQ ADCOM PETERSON AFB CG/JA
HQUSAF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A 3 .

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CA, US, MARR, NATO
SUBJECT: QUEBEC VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE AND NO-FAULT
INSURANCE

REF: STATE 173704

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS CALLED JULY 14 ON GORDON LONGMUIR,
HEAD OF NORTH AMERICAN SECTION IN DEFENSE RELATIONS
DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TO CONVEY
POINTS IN REFTEL AND TO ASK CANADIAN AUTHORITIES TO
OBTAIN RELIEF FROM THE VEHICLES REGISTRATION FEE AND
THE NO-FAULT INSURANCE CHARGE BY QUEBEC GOVERNMENT
AGAINST OFFICIAL VEHICLES OF U.S. FORCES STATIONED IN
QUEBEC.

2. LONGMUIR, WHO WAS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THIS MATTER,
REMINDED US THAT DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND)
HAS A SIMILAR PROBLEM WITH CANADIAN FORCES VEHICLES IN
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03515 171853Z

QUEBEC. IN OUR CASE, DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN THAT QUEBEC
GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE APPLICABILITY OF NATO
SOFA AND VISITORS FORCES ACT TO QUEBEC. LONGMUIR
INDICATED THAT OFFICIALS OF EXTAFF AND OFFICE OF FEDERAL-
PROVINCIAL RELATIONS IN THE PRIVY COUNCIL WILL MEET
THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 14) TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF BOTH
USAF AND CANADIAN FORCES VEHICLES. MEETING WILL CON-

SIDER ADVISABILITY OF DND'S PAYING PART OF FEES FOR
CANADIAN VEHICLES ON CONDITION QUEBEC GOVERNMENT
"FORGIVES" REMAINDER AND DND IS REIMBURSED BY FINANCE
MINISTRY. GROUP WILL ALSO DISCUSS RECOMMENDING THAT
USAF PAY FEES WITH UNDERSTANDING AIR FORCE WOULD BE
REIMBURSED BY GOC.

3. WE TOLD LONGMUIR WE DOUBTED LATTER PROPOSAL WOULD BE
ACCEPTABLE AS USG BELIEVES, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, THAT
USAF IS EXEMPT FROM SUCH FEES. LONGMUIR THEN MENTIONED
THAT GOC WOULD POSSIBLY BE WILLING TO PAY THE FEES ON
BEHALF OF THE USAF. IN ANY EVENT, HE INDICATED THAT HE
WOULD GET BACK TO US AS SOON AS HE COULD, BUT THAT IT
MIGHT TAKE A WHILE TO SORT THE MATTER OUT.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT GOC, HAVING ENOUGH PROBLEMS
WITH PQ GOVERNMENT IN QUEBEC THESE DAYS, IS NOT INCLINED
TO STAGE A MAJOR BATTLE OVER THIS ISSUE.
ENDERS

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